

INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Course Number: 5702

A. Career Paths

- 1. Explore career options in Early Childhood.**
 - Conduct research to determine career paths for Early Childhood.
 - Interview various professionals regarding careers in Early Childhood.
 - Shadow an Early Childhood professional.
 - Create a job vacancy announcement and include the qualification, essential knowledge, personality characteristics, days and time for work, etc. (Use other announcements as guides)
 - Visit a local Head Start program or other childcare programs. Talk to staff members to discover what levels of education and training are required for each of the positions in the program.
- 2. Investigate education and training requirements.**
 - Create a chart showing name of career, education and training required and salary.
 - Compare the education and training of different individuals to determine how education and training affects salaries.
 - Interview professionals with varying educational levels.
- 3. Identify essential personality characteristics of a successful early childhood professional (leadership, ethics, and mentoring).**
 - Role play various situations in a childcare classroom and decide what personality characteristics you will need to deal with that situation.
 - Explain personality characteristics that are conducive to working with young children and why these characteristics are important.
 - Observe different people working with young children and identify the personality characteristics they have that are most needed to be effective with young children.

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B. Developmentally Appropriate Practices

- 1. Describe each of the domains of development: physical, emotional, social, cognitive/intellectual, language, self-help, and moral development.**
 - Complete a research project to respond to the following scenario: If you were a parent of a young child, how would you find a good childcare program. What would you look for?
 - Observe several children of the same age. How are they similar? How are they different? How do you explain the similarities and differences? Report your findings to the class.
 - Identify characteristics a child may have to show that they feel good about themselves. Create a checklist from the identified characteristics.
 - Determine what factors underlie the differences in social and physical growth of children.

- 2. Implement developmentally appropriate learning activities that address the domains of development.**
 - Create a resource that shows various developmental stages and appropriate learning activities for each stage.
 - Role-play signs of frustration when a child is asked to accomplish a difficult task and how to deal with that frustration.
 - Create various scenarios to show various domains of development and learning activities that are conducive to each domain.
 - Locate thematic units and determine whether all domains are addressed. Discuss your findings and support your results with facts.

- 3. Identify issues that affect family dynamics to the development of the child.**
 - Brainstorm various definitions of a family. Conduct research and develop a comprehensive definition of family.
 - Write a story about a fictitious family. Include in your story the people in the family, a description of each person, etc. Talk about a specific issue that affects this family and how it affects the children of the family.
 - Research issues that affect families adversely and talk about ways that these issues can be resolved.

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C. Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

- 1. Evaluate safe and healthy learning environments.**
 - Use various resources and create an evaluation sheet that can be used in a childcare program to determine if it is safe and healthy.
 - Create a scenario where at least 10 safe and 10 unsafe practices are incorporated. Exchange scenarios with classmates and ask them to list and categorize safe and unsafe practices.
- 2. Identify safe and healthy practices according to state and federal regulations.**
 - Invite an inspector for early childhood education programs to visit and present information to the class.
 - Brainstorm safe and healthy practices and make a list.
 - Research safe and healthy practices and compare research to the brainstormed list.
- 3. Identify the nutritional needs of children.**
 - Determine the guidelines that need to be adhered to when planning meals or snacks for children.
 - Identify special nutritional requirements for children.
 - Plan cooking activities for preschoolers for very simple nutritious snacks.
 - Invite a dietician or nutritionist to talk with the class about the nutritional needs of children.
- 4. Describe first aid procedures.**
 - Determine the needed contents of a first aid kit and where it should be kept. Why?
 - List various accidents that have or could happen. Discuss ways to avoid accidents. Remember to include children's clothing, toys, classroom arrangement, play ground, etc.
 - Identify potential hazards in simulated situations.
 - Research news articles about accidents with young children. Talk about ways these accidents may have been avoided.

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D. Collaborative Relationships

- 1. Develop verbal, nonverbal, and written communication skills.**
 - Convey a message nonverbally.
 - Practice saying the same statement and emphasize different words, use different expressions, discuss the affect on the statement.
 - Write a practice letter that you may want to send to the parents to welcome them to your Early Childcare Center. Evaluate the letter to determine if you conveyed the intended message.
- 2. Demonstrate techniques for maintaining positive relationships.**
 - Work with a group of no less than four people to complete a group project. After the project is completed talk about the group process.
 - Talk about characteristics needed to maintain positive relationships.
 - Create a scenario with a situation that could create a problem in a relationship. Talk about ways or resolving the problem without destroying the relationship.
- 3. Investigate problem-solving skills.**
 - Use simulated problems that could occur in an Early Childhood setting and use the steps in problem solving to resolve the problem.
 - You and four friends have decided you want to start your own Early Childhood Center. Begin with the planning stage and go through the steps needed to have your center. Develop a technology-based presentation to include all of the steps and the opening of your center.
- 4. Organize a data bank of community resources.**
 - Use the Internet any other available resource and develop a databank of community resources available in your area.

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E. Professional Employment Skills

- 1. Develop skills and procedures necessary for seeking employment.**
 - Complete an outline of all skills and procedures needed for seeking employment.
 - Develop a job seeking/job keeping presentation for the class.
 - Create a checklist for interviews. Participate in mock interview that are video taped. Using the checklist, evaluate your interview and compare with the teacher evaluation.